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# THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

## RANDOM DECORATIVE NOTES.



ANDEAU fringe for trimming mantels, is made of heavy ropes of silk of different colors, varying in length from six to twelve and eighteen inches with fringed out tassels at the ends. The fringe is laid over plush and tacked around the mantel plain. The same style of trimming might be very effective made of manilla rope of different sizes, adding silk to the fringed out tassels if desired.

In a room where space is limited the back of a cottage piano may be converted into a receptacle for all sorts of knickknacks. A curtain or drapery of any effective material is first attached, and this is looped up, left hanging or arranged according to the exigencies of the situation. A shelf is placed half way down the back, with a festooned valance, and on this stand photographs in frames, and any pretty trifles in the way of ornaments. Then below are suspended small pictures and other things, and at the base is a box of growing plants; at each end a tall uprising bush of foliage, grass, peacock feathers or rushes. A good sized engraving or sketch may be hung in the middle in place of the shelf, with brackets on either side holding photographs or small pieces of statuary.

Photograph frames of rough rounded wood about two inches wide, or of notched twigs, either painted brown or varnished are novel. They are hung up by colored ribbons. Another novelty for showing off photographs of all sizes is an easel of tolerable height made of deal and afterwards painted black or of imitation wood. An ordinary sheet of very thick cardboard measuring twenty-four by nineteen inches is covered with velvet, plush, or other handsome plain goods. Then three rows of ribbon, two and a half or three inches wide are stretched across at the required distances as tightly as possible, and firmly secured to the back of the cardboard. One piece is at the base and the other two about four and a half inches apart. These are then feather stitched near the lowest edge to form receptacles for the photographs, which drop in and stand up against the cardboard. Afterwards two corners of plush, one larger than the other are put on across the right hand corner low down, and the opposite one on the top of the cardboard. These are merely for ornament, and can be worked with a floral design, a slanting signature, or painted in oils on some other material than plush. The lowest corner should measure fifteen inches across, and the upper one about six. When this is all done, take a piece of lining of some kind, turn in the edges and sew it neatly on the back. Some discretion must be exercised as to the putting on of the ribbons and securing them to the material in front, as some photographs are higher than others. Pins might be put in first, just to judge of the requirements. When all is finished, then rest the cardboard on the easel, put in the pictures, arrange a silken sash scarf in a loop around the top of the easel, pass it behind the cardboard, bring it out on the left side and drop it across the base to the right. Very little expense is required and not much trouble to make quite a handsome ornament.

Another way to provide for the accumulation of photographs which comes upon one unaware nowadays is to gild a large willow or fancy rattan basket and pile them helter-skelter into it. Large wooden bowls have been gilded and decorated on the outer and inner rims with a Grecian border in colors, and utilized for the same purpose. Photograph holders with pockets in each end are very convenient and not troublesome to make. Three or

four of different sizes and as many varieties of material will not be in the way about any house. Some very pretty inexpensive ones seen were made of the heavy twilled awning cloth; solid two-inch stripes of dark blue alternating with white the same width. The effect was highly artistic, the real material never being suspected except upon close inspection. The blue and white Japanese crape, three-eighths of a yard wide is exceedingly pretty and serviceable for small ones. A sheet of wadding filled with perfume powder laid between the lining and cover is a pleasing addition. Narrow striped ticking may be used for these holders by cross stitching velvet ribbon on the white stripes and putting rows of briar stitch up and down the colored ones.

A useful corner table may be made of deal on three legs, covered with diagonal serge, Roman sheeting, or plush, embroidered or painted. Chinese cash—the Chinamans penny, with a hole in the center—might be very effectively arranged on a valance of this kind. Any carpenter could make the table at very little expense, and when the legs are painted and the top covered it fills a corner admirably and is an ornamental receptacle for books and bric-a-brac.

Curtains are looped back with two or three rows of graduated perforated brass beads of good size. Beads, especially the cheap colored Egyptian ones, lately imported are very much used for looping curtains for windows or fire-places.

Saddle-bag upholstery is very popular at present. It takes its name from the handsome looking saddle bags used in Egypt, thrown across the backs of donkeys and mules. Originally the real things were used, brought home from the East, but when the demand became great, home industry was brought to bear upon the subject, and the result was an excellent reproduction of the colors, designs, and soft velvet pile of the Eastern article. The saddle-bags are small square mats, and they are adapted as the back, seat and arms of a chair put on diamond ways. They are also occasionally used as covering for the low divans, which some people have a fancy for, in one corner of a small room between a window and a fire-place. Head-rests for easy chairs are made saddle-bag fashion and scented sachets to hang about the room are fashioned after the same pattern.

Small camp-stools with cretonne or plush bags attached to them are very convenient work receptacles. They are nailed to the stool and do not prevent its folding up, so the whole thing can be carried about and is most useful. The bag has a square base to fit the camp stool, and is about sixteen inches high, with a draw-string about three inches from the top and has no lining.

Many ladies just now seem to affect Moorish coloring. A book-shelf seen in a house celebrated for its new and artistic ideas, was made in red and blue coloring, with a mass of red wool tassels depending. Another was faced with the Arabian open wood carving, the front of each shelf being different. The various enamels applied to woodwork are effective, especially if the shelves are filled with books and china alternately. For chambers or bed-rooms book-shelves may be covered with Pompadour or Dolly Varden Chintz, having floral bouquets at wide intervals.

For those who indulge in the luxury of an open wood fire a box for holding the wood may be made as follows: A box the right size is covered with garnet plush and ornamented in front and on the lid with richly embroidered appliques, representing flowers and foliage. The lid is bordered with galoon and fastened down with brass headed nails.



TAIL PIECE.